

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

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C O N F I D E N T I A L LISBON 167

E.O. 11652: XGDS-1
TAGS: PINT PO
SUBJECT: PSD: SA CARNEIRO SLATE WINS DISTRICT ELECTION

REF: (A) LISBON 1731, (B) OPORTO 56

1. THE FOLLOWING CABLE IS REPEATED FROM AMCONSUL OPORTO.
EMBASSY ENDORSES OPORTO'S SUGGESTION (PARA 5) TO EXTEND
FACILITATIVE ASSISTANCE TO AZEVEDO AND WIFE, WHO ARE
BOTH MEMBERS OF PORTUGUESE DELEGATION TO NORTH ATLANTIC
ASSEMBLY. SIMILAR COURTESIES SHOULD BE EXTENDED TO
DR. NUNES, SOCIALIST MEMBER OF PORTUGUESE DELEGATION.
NUNES, LIKE THE AZEVEDO'S, WILL BE STAYING AT THE
MAYFLOWER.

2. BEGIN OPORTO CABLE: NORTHERNERS WANT SA CARNEIRO
BACK: OPORTO SOCIAL DEMOCRATIC (PSD) DISTRICT COMMISSION
ELECTED A NEW DISTRICT POLITICAL COUNCIL MARCH 11 IN A
CONTEST BETWEEN SA CARNEIRO SUPPORTERS AND PROPONENTS
OF THE SOUSA FRANCO LEADERSHIP. PSD DEPUTY AND FORMER
SECRETARY OF STATE FOR REFUGEES AMANDIO DE AZEVEDO
HEADED A PRO-SA CARNEIRO SLATE. SOUSA FRANCO
SUPPORTERS WERE LED BY NEW NATIONAL POLITICAL COMMISSION
MEMBER VIEIRA DA CUNHA WHO OPPOSED SA CARNEIRO AT THE
FIFTH PARTY CONGRESS. ONLY 136 DISTRICT DEPUTIES
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CAST BALLOTS OUT OF 300 ELIGIBLE VOTERS, MOST OF
WHOM REPRESENT LOCAL PSD CHAPTERS IN THE PROPORTION
OF ONE FOR EACH 50 MEMBERS. RESULTS WERE CONCLUSIVE:
98-38 IN FAVOR OF THE SLATE IDENTIFIED WITH SA CARNEIRO.

3. THE WAR OF WORDS CONTINUES: LOCAL PRESS ANNOUNCED
MARCH 11 THAT A BOOKLET ENTITLED "THE IMPASSE/

WOULD BE RELEASED THIS WEEK ON THE EVE OF THE PSD NATIONAL POLITICAL COMMISSION MEETING IN SANTAREM. "THE IMPASSE" IS REPORTEDLY A COLLECTION OF RECENT SA CARNEIRO ARTICLES AND INTERVIEWS PLUS INTRODUCTORY COMMENTS. SA CARNEIRO'S FULL SPEECH AT THE FIFTH PARTY CONGRESS AND AN ARTICLE HE HAD DRAFTED FOR THE PSD PAPER WHICH HAD SUBSEQUENTLY BEEN REJECTED BY PARTY LEADERS. A PRO-SA CARNEIRO MANIFESTO IS ALSO SAID TO BE CIRCULATING IN NORTHERN PSD CIRCLES. THE STATEMENT IS SIGNED BY A NUMBER OF LOCAL SOCIAL DEMOCRATIC RANK AND FILE. IT WARNS OF A NATIONAL POLITICAL EMERGENCY IN THE NOT-TOO-DISTANT FUTURE WHICH WOULD NECESSITATE THE IMMEDIATE RETURN BY THE PSD TO SA CARNEIRO'S POLICIES BEST HANDLED BY SA CARNEIRO HIMSELF.

4. MORE THAN HONEST DIFFERENCES: IN MARCH 13 CONVERSATION WITH AMCONSUL, AZEVEDO TRIED TO DOWNPLAY CURRENT PSD FACTIONALISM. HE CALLED IT "HONEST DIFFERENCES AMONG FRIENDS OVER TACTICS." AZEVEDO CLAIMED SOME DISTRICT DEPUTIES VOTED AGAINST VIEIRA DE CUNHA IN THE BELIEF HE SHOULD NOT SERVE SIMULTANEOUSLY ON BOTH THE NATIONAL POLITICAL COMMISSION AND DISTRICT COUNCIL. (AZEVEDO WAS UNCONVINCING ON BOTH COUNTS.) FURTHERMORE, AZEVEDO THOUGHT SA CARNEIRO WOULD NOT RETURN FULLTIME TO POLITICS BEFORE 1980.

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5. U.. VISIT OF AZEVEDO: AMANDIO DE AZEVEDO, ACCOMPANIED BY WIFE AMELIA, DAUGHTER, AND MOTHER, WILL BE MAKING FIRST TIME VISIT TO THE U.S. DEPARTING MARCH 17. BOTH MR. & MRS. AZEVEDO ARE PSD DEPUTIES IN THE ASSEMBLY OF THE REPUBLIC AND ALSO SERVED IN THE CONSTITUTIONAL ASSEMBLY. MR. AZEVEDO SERVES ON THE LABOR COMMITTEE, MRS. AZEVEDO IN EDUCATION. THEY WILL BE VISITING THE UNITED STATES AS PART OF A THREE-MAN DELEGATION REPRESENTING THE NATIONAL ASSEMBLY AT THE ATLANTIC ASSEMBLY. THE THIRD MEMBER OF THE DELEGATION IS DR. JOSE LUIS NUNES, A PS MEMBER OF THE ASSEMBLY FROM OPORTO. THIS YEAR'S MEETING WILL BE HELD IN WASHINGTON ON MARCH 20-21. WHILE IN WASHINGTON, AZEVEDO AND HIS WIFE WOULD LIKE TO MEET WITH REPRESENTATIVES OF THE DEPARTMENT (IN PARTICULAR THE PORTUGUESE DESK OFFICER) AND WITH MEMBERS OF BOTH POLITICAL PARTIES WHO WOULD BE IN A POSITION TO DISCUSS PARTY ORGANIZATION. THEY WILL BE STAYING AT THE HOTEL MAYFLOWER.

6. COMMENT: IT IS UNCLEAR HOW HEARD SA CARNEIRO WORKED BEHIND THE SCENES TO MAKE THE MARCH 11 ELECTION A REAL

CONTEST RATHER THAN THE EXPECTED PRO FORMA APPROVAL
OF A SINGLE SLATE (REFTEL A PARA 3). HOWEVER, SA
CARNEIRO COULD EASILY HAVE STOPPED THE CONTEST GIVEN
HIS CLOSE LONG-TIME RELATIONSHIP TO AZEVEDO. SA
CARNEIRO CAN ALSO KEEP MANIFESTOS FROM CIRCULATING IN
HIS BEHALF. FOR THE MOMENT SA CARNEIRO DOES NOT SEEM
TO WANT TO GIVE THE SOUDA FRANCO LEADERSHIP A CHANCE.
PENNER. END OPORTO CABLE.
BLOOMFIELD

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